

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 141036Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0933

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14299

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: U. S. RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

REF: PARIS 14104

1. DRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THANH CALLED ON EMBOFF MAY 14 AT 11:00 TO GIVE HANOI'S FORMAL VIEW CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF US/DRV CORRESPONDENCE. READING FROM A VIETNAMESE TEXT DO THANH SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OF THE VIEW THAT "THE TWO PARTIES" SHOULD NOT PUBLISH EVEN THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MESSAGE. THEY WISH THE U.S. SIDE TO GUARANTEE THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGES WILL NOT BE DIVULGED FOR EXPLOITATION IN A SENSE DETRIMENTAL TO THE DRV, THEREBY OBLIGING THE DRV TO CORRECT THE RECORD AND CRITICIZE. FOR ITS PART, THE DRV CONSIDERS THERE IS NOTHING TO HIDE FROM PUBLIC OPINION.

2. DO THANH SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE NOT TO DISCLOSE (A) THE EXISTENCE OF A COMMUNICATION, (B) THE NATURE OF THE CONTENTS AND (C) THE ACTUAL TEXT. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF REFUSING TO CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF A MESSAGE AND REPEATED THE PREVIOUSLY STATED U.S. POSITION THAT IT SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRECY CONCERNING THE CONTENTS. DO THANH SAID THEY

UNDERSTOOD U.S. PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEGISLATURE, BUT THEY STILL SAW NO ADEQUATE REASON WHY WE WOULD HAVE TO CONFIRM EACH TIME THAT A MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT OR RECEIVED. DO THANH SEEMED TO PREFER A PROCEDURE BY WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COULD AFFIRM THAT THERE WERE ONGOING EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE USG AND THE DRV, BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE -- OR CONFIRM OR DENY -- WHEN INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES WERE SENT OR RECEIVED.

3. IF DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE PROCEDURE, PLEASE INFORM US URGENTLY, AND IN ANY CASE IN ADVANCE OF ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES THAT IT PREFERS TO REVEAL TO THE PRESS EACH TIME A MESSAGE IS SENT OR RECEIVED, WE SUGGEST WE BE ABLE TO INFORM THE DRV EMBASSY IN SUFFICIENT TIME SO THAT OUR POSITION CAN BE CONVEYED TO HANOI. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE THE VIETNAMESE OUR REASONS FOR WISHING TO ANNOUNCE NOT ONLY THE MOST RECENT MESSAGE BUT ALSO ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO CONFIRM THE MAY 8 NOTE, BUT TO AGREE WITH THE DRV NOT TO ANNOUNCE ANY SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES RECEIVED OR SENT.  
GAMMON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, PRESS RELEASES  
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